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1763 the action taken with regard to the western lands was a re-affirmation of what had been proposed in 1756. The peace negotiations had included Canada with all its dependencies. In 1763 it was suggested that the western territory should be governed by the commander-in-chief, and the proposal to place it under the control of Canada was rejected as giving to the province an undue advantage in the fur trade. It was only from the feeling of the impossibility of any other arrangement that the western territory was finally assigned to Canada, and not from any hostility to the southern provinces.

The protest of Congress against the encouragement of the Roman Catholic religion by permitting the priests to hold, receive and enjoy the accustomed dues and rights, and against the recognition of French civil law by which the existence of a French Canadian province was assured, are matters of history. On this point Dr. Coffin speaks very strongly. He urges that it was the duty of Great Britain to start the province as an English, not as a French community, and that the act which determined the ecclesiastical condition and the civil code handed Canada over to a French Canadian population.

Dr. Coffin assigns to this feeling the abandonment by the United Empire Loyalists of Lower Canada. No such unfortunate exodus was contemplated in 1774, and when it took place climatical conditions had much to do in influencing the choice of the new home. Dr. Coffin summarizes his view of this matter in the sentence that it is not an extreme view to regard the great difficulties that beset English rule in Canada and the grave problems that confront the Dominion as a natural and logical development of the policy of the Quebec Act (p. 540).

Although we are by no means certain that Dr. Coffin's views will obtain universal recognition, it is but an act of duty to do justice to his industry and research in placing the question so fully and ably before the historical student. He has himself afforded the means of fairly considering his theories, and his work is really indispensable to any one who desires to master this somewhat difficult question. It should certainly obtain attention, especially in Canada, for it throws light on much affecting the modern politics of the Dominion.

The Writings of John Dickinson. Vol. I. Political Writings, 1764-1774. Edited by PAUL LEICESTER FORD. (Philadelphia: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. 1896. Pp. xxii, 501.)

THIS, Vol. II. of the *Life and Writings of John Dickinson*, and Vol. XIV. of the *Memoirs* of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, had the way prepared by the preceding volume of the series, *The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808*, by Charles J. Stillé, LL. D., published by the same society in 1891. In that able and scholarly work Dr. Stillé gave the first adequate presentation of the personality of John Dickinson and of his influence upon the men and events of his day. Mr. Ford, with his accustomed patience and industry, aided by his wide knowledge

of the literature of the epoch, has brought to light, from contemporary broadsides, newspapers, forgotten pamphlets and original manuscripts, many papers by Dickinson, heretofore practically unknown. With this added material, together with that already familiar to us, the editor announces that there will be a second volume of the *Political Writings* and a third volume of correspondence. Some of the papers presented in this volume for the first time to readers of this century are quite equal in force and breadth of statesmanship to many of the author's better known publications. As was to be expected, they are all in line with his unceasing efforts, tending to one end—to secure self-government for the American people. From this he never swerved, and to this singleness of purpose is, of course, due much of his influence in shaping events in his day. When Dickinson published his *Writings*, in 1801, he naturally omitted many papers which related to ephemeral issues, and especially to personal controversies with antagonists then long deceased. Mr. Ford has wisely included these papers in the new edition. We say wisely, for nothing better illustrates the temper of the man, and the temper of the times in which they were written, to say nothing of their value for the estimates they often give of Dickinson's contemporaries. His well-known speech, of May 24, 1764, wherein he warned Pennsylvanians of the danger they ran in fleeing from the evils of proprietary government to the worse dangers of rule by an English ministry, is here supplemented by several other papers in the same connection, from his pen, but hitherto not reprinted. In like manner his resolutions and speeches on the Stamp Act, widely printed at the time, and reprinted in his *Writings*, are here supplemented by other important contributions of his to the literature of the subject, almost if not quite unknown to most students of history. Among the other new material given may be mentioned the author's "Song for American Freedom," containing the suggestive lines, "By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall;" also four *Letters to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies*, published in 1774, in relation to the Boston Port Bill. Each of the papers in this handsome volume is enriched by explanatory and bibliographical notes by Mr. Ford; fac-similes are given of the "Song" above mentioned, and also of the title-pages of the several pamphlets. It is to be hoped that the other volumes of the *Writings* will be forthcoming soon.

WILLIAM NELSON.

Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783, and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark. By WILLIAM HAYDEN ENGLISH, President of the Indiana Historical Society. (Indianapolis and Kansas City: The Bowen-Merrill Company. 1896. Two vols., pp. 1186.)

THE death of the author of this work followed shortly after its completion. He was a prominent citizen of Indiana and President of the State Historical Society of that state, and in 1880 he received the Demo-